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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 SY-02 ACDA-05

INRE-00 (ISO) W
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O 061301Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3888

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1915

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND
COLOMBO FROM MADRAS FEB 6, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE
MADRAS 0235

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY'S VERSION OF REASONS FOR TAMIL NADU TAKEOVER

REF: NEW DELHI 1750

1. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE REPORT G.K. REDDY
SAYS HE GOT FROM SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS THAT THE DMK WAS PLANNIMG
A SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 1.
ON THE CONTRARY, ALL OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US TENDS
TO BE A COUNTERINDICATION OF SUCH INTENTIONS. I HAD LONG AND.
I BELIEVE, CANDID DISCUSSION WITH LABOR MINISTER RAJAGAM JANUARY
28, EDUCATION MINISTER NEDU CHEZHIA JAMUARY 29, AND DMK LOK
SABHA LEADER ERA SEZHIYAN JANUARY 30, AS WELL AS WITH SOME OTHER
LESSER PARTY OFFICIALS. FAR FROM GIVING ANY SUGGESTION OF IMPENDING
DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS. ALL OF THESE SENIOR PARTY AMD GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS TOOKPAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD
BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND THAT ANY AGITATIONAL ACTIVITY WOULD
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PLAY DIRECTLY INTO MRS. GANDHIS HANDS, BY GIVING HER AN EXCUSE

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TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DMK GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWED BY REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE PARTY. THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO, ON JANUARY 29, ANNOUNCED THE CALLING OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR FEBRUARY 19 AND WAS PROCEDING WITH PLANS TO PRESEMT THE BUDGET AT THE SESSION.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT KARUNANIDHI AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE NERVOUS DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25. THEY KNEW THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD BEEN TO DELHI, HAD ARGUED AGAINST THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE, AND STARTING BACK TO MADRAS, HAD BEEN INTEGCEPTED AT HYDERABAD AND TOLD TO RETURN TO DELHI. KARUNANIDHI OSTENSIBLY TOOK SICK AND WAS OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HE MAY HAVE BEEN USING THE TIME TO DESTROY FILES AND PUT HIS RECORDS IN ORDER. BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE WAS USING THE TIME TO PLAN DEMOMSTRATIONS.

3. FURTHERMORE, OUR LOCAL CONGRESS (R) SOURCES, WHO ARE AT GREAT PAINS TO JUSTIFY MRS. GANDHI'S ACTION, HAVE NEVER SUGGESTED ANY PROSPECT OF DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROTESTS BY THE DMK IN EARLY FEBRUARY. THEY ARGUE INSTEAD THAT MRS. GANDHI MOVED QUICKLY TO IMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE FOR TWO REASONS; (A) THE GOI HAD INFORMATIOM THAT KARUNANIDHI, AFTER THE CONVENING OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLYWHICH HAD BEEN CALLED FOR FEBGUARY 19, WOULD EITHER DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO MRS. GANDHI (SUCH AS HAVING THE LEGISLATURE PASS A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ELECTIONS) OR MIGHT TAKE THE INITIATIVE AWAY FROM HER BY SUBMITTING THE RESIGNATION OF HIS MINISTRY BEFORE SHE COULD IMPOSE PRESIDENTS RULE; AND (B) THE GOI HAD INFORMATION THAT THE DMK MINISTERS WERE TAMPERING WITH THEIR FILES TO REMOVE ANY EVIDENCE RELATING TO CORRUPTION, MALPRACTIVES, AND FAVORITISM AND, UNLESS THE PRIME MINISTER MOVED QUICKLY, THERE WOULD NOT BE MUCH IMPACT FGOM IMPOSING PRESIDENT'S RULE OR MUCH EVIDENCE AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WHICH SHE INTENDED TO APPOINT TO LOOK INTO THE LAPSES OF THE DMK GOVERNMENT. OUR CONGRESS (R) CONTACTS ALSO BELIEVE MRS. GANDHI WAS ANGRY OVER THE SUCCESS OF KAGUNANIDHI'S EFFORTS TO FRUSTRATE A FULL MERGER BETWEEN CONGRESS (R) AND CONGRESS (O).

4. FINALLY, A RELIABLE COMTACT IN THE GOI INTELLIGENCE BUREAU HERE INFORMS US THAT HIS OFFICE HAD NO INFORMATION ON ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS BY THE DMK.

5. ALL OF THE ABOVE, TO MY MIND, CASTS SERIOUS DOUBTS ON THE VALIDITY OF REDDYS STATEMENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION ON PRESIDENT'S RULE WAS BASED ON INTELLIGENCE INFO THAT DMK WAS PLANNING SERIES OF MEEETINGS, PARADES AND DEMONSTRATIONS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1 AIMED AT BUILDING PUBLIC OPPOSITION AND REACTION, INCLUDING POTENTIAL VIOLENCE, AGAINST ANTICIPATED DECLARATION

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OF PRESIDENT'S RULE. SIGNED EAVES
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TAMIL NADU
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE01915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0273
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacnds.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 1750
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: G.K. REDDY'S VERSION OF REASONS FOR TAMIL NADU TAKEOVER
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006